

(Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4007 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5140, a bill to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits.

AMENDMENT NO. 4008

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4008 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5140, a bill to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 186

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 186, a bill to provide appropriate protection to attorney-client privileged communications and attorney work product.

S. 694

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 694, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of light motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to repeal a provision enacted to end Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 1484

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1484, a bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore the Medicare treatment of ownership of oxygen equipment to that in effect before enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2119, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 2133

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2133, a bill to authorize bankruptcy courts to take certain actions with re-

spect to mortgage loans in bankruptcy, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify the tariffs on certain footwear.

S. 2401

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2401, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refund of motor fuel excise taxes for the actual off-highway use of certain mobile machinery vehicles.

S. 2421

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2421, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax benefits to individuals who have been wrongfully incarcerated.

S. 2453

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2453, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to clarify requirements relating to non-discrimination on the basis of national origin.

S. 2549

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2549, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice to provide guidance to Federal agencies on the development of criteria for identifying disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations, and for other purposes.

S. 2586

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 2586, a bill to provide States with fiscal relief through a temporary increase in the Federal medical assistance percentage and direct payments to States.

S. 2596

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2596, a bill to rescind funds appropriated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, for the City of Berkeley, California, and any entities located in such city, and to provide that such funds shall be transferred to the Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps account of the Department of Defense for the purposes of recruiting.

S. 2602

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2602, a bill to amend the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008, to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to deduct amounts from certain States.

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2602, *supra*.

S. RES. 439

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 439, a resolution expressing the strong support of the Senate for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to enter into a Membership Action Plan with Georgia and Ukraine.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 2613. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer certain amounts to the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation—a companion bill will be introduced in the House by my colleague Representative SALAZAR—to ensure that the communities in northwestern Colorado most affected by the enormous recent increase in oil and gas drilling activities, especially those in Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties, immediately receive their fair share of the surplus funds from the Anvil Points cleanup fund. Our legislation will direct Colorado's share of those surplus funds to land, water and wildlife protection and conservation efforts, and for repair, maintenance and construction of roads and other infrastructure affected by oil and gas development in those counties.

Under the Transfer Act, Public Law 105-85, Colorado has not and will not receive any of the leasing revenues from oil and gas production on former Naval Oil Shale Reserve land until cleanup of the Anvil Points Superfund Site is complete. Normally these substantial revenues would be shared 50-50 between the State and Federal government under the Mineral Leasing Act. Today the trust fund set aside for the cleanup of Anvil Points is in surplus, and that surplus currently amounts to approximately \$66.5 million. The Salazar-Salazar legislation amends the Transfer Act to immediately release Colorado's share of the surplus funds to Western Slope communities to mitigate development impacts in and around the former Naval Oil Shale Reserve in Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties.

The Anvil Points trust fund currently accrues approximately \$1.5 million per month.

Under this legislation half of those incoming funds will go to Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties and half will go to the Federal Government. After the cleanup of the Anvil Points site is complete and the Secretary of the Interior certifies that the Federal Government has collected enough money to pay for the cleanup, the Anvil Points trust fund will cease to exist and oil and gas leasing revenues from the area will be divided 50–50 between the State of Colorado and the Federal Government.

The oil and gas industry provides Colorado with much-needed revenue that enables our State to flourish. We must ensure that some of those revenues go back to the communities from which they originated. Our bill will ensure that the oil and gas industry does not leave the counties of Garfield and Rio Blanco looking like a spoiled moonscape but instead allows the watersheds and wildlife there to prosper and continue to be a haven for sportsmen and recreationists from across Colorado.

Yesterday, I along with Congressmen MARK UDALL and JOHN SALAZAR also introduced legislation that repeals the eleventh-hour money grab by the Federal Government in last year's omnibus appropriations bill that would reduce from 50 percent to 48 percent the share of total royalties paid to Colorado and other States. The core underlying principle of the Mineral Leasing Act—that our Nation and our States share equal claim of our precious mineral resources—should be maintained. Our bill restores each State's share to its full, coequal 50 percent of mineral leasing revenues.

Together these bills restore Colorado's share of oil and gas leasing revenue to its full 50 percent. With respect to the excess funds now held by the Federal Government for the cleanup of Anvil Points, our legislation will direct Colorado's share of those surplus dollars to land and water conservation, wildlife protection, and roads and other infrastructure affected by oil and gas development in the local communities most affected by these activities.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 2614. A bill to facilitate the development, demonstration, and implementation of technology for the use in removing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on legislation I am introducing to address climate change.

Today, I am introducing legislation to address a major technological challenge that faces all of us. It is the challenge of how to solve the problem of the warming of our planet. This bill is called the Greenhouse Gas Emission Atmospheric Removal Act, or the GEAR Act.

Members of this body have discussed various proposals to regulate the output of greenhouse gases. Some advo-

cate doing it through a cap and trade approach. Others have advocated a tax on carbon.

Such proposals are aimed at limiting future carbon output into the atmosphere. Many proposals have been introduced and debated using this approach of dealing with our carbon output. Overlooked in the debate are the greenhouse gases that are currently in the atmosphere.

The best science tells us that the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere are the gases that are causing the warming of our planet. To what extent, we are not certain. So let us resolve to find a way to remove the excess greenhouse gases that are already in the atmosphere. Remove them, and permanently sequester them.

To accomplish this goal, we are, as a Nation, going to need to make a significant investment to develop the technology. The approach my legislation takes to address this is through a series of financial prizes where we set the technological goals and also define the outcomes we demand.

The first researchers to meet the criteria would receive not only Federal funds, but also international acclaim. The prizes would be determined by a Federal commission under the Department of Energy. The commission would be composed of climate scientists, physicists, chemists, engineers, business managers, and economists. The commission would be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The awards would go to those, both public and private, who would achieve milestones in developing and applying technology. Technology that could significantly help to slow or reverse the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The greenhouse gases would have to be permanently sequestered. Sequestered in a manner that would be without significant harmful effects.

This is how it would work. There would be four different levels of prizes. The first level award would go to the public or private entity that could first demonstrate a design for a successful technology that could remove and permanently sequester greenhouse gases. Second, there would be a prize for a lab scale demonstration project of the technology that accomplishes the same thing. Third, there would be an award for demonstrating the technology to remove and permanently sequester greenhouse gases that is operational at a larger, working model scale. Finally, there would be an award for whoever could demonstrate the technology to remove and permanently sequester greenhouse gases on a commercially viable scale.

There you have it—four different levels of development. First for designing the technology, then for a lab scale demonstration of the technology, then for a larger working model, and then finally, the proven use of the technology on a commercially viable scale. Once

the technology is developed, the United States would share intellectual property rights to the technology with whoever invented it. This bill, as drafted, does not include a specific dollar amount for each prize. Instead, it authorizes such sums as may be necessary.

The commission will be directed to report to Congress 1 year after enactment of the law. The commission will recommend the levels of funding that would be necessary to achieve the goals of this act.

I believe prizes can be a unique tool in creating technological development. It only seems natural that if we get all the best scientific minds thinking about the same problem, we significantly enhance our chances of solving it.

Historically, prizes have been used to spur all types of technological development to solve big problems. In 1714, the British government offered the first prize of this type for a device capable of accurately measuring longitude. John Harrison, a clock maker, was awarded 20,000 pounds for designing an accurate and durable chronometer 59 years later. This transformed our ability to sail the seas.

In 1775, the French offered a 100,000-franc prize resulting in an artificial form of alkali being produced. In 1810, the first vacuum sealed food was produced by Nicolas Appert, after 15 years of experimentation, driven by a 12,000-franc prize offered by Napoleon. Today, vacuum sealing is still used throughout the world.

In 1909 the first flight across the English Channel was spurred by a prize offered by a newspaper. Charles Lindbergh was competing for the Orteig prize offered by the wealthy hotel owner Raymond Orteig, when he flew in the *Spirit of St. Louis* nonstop from New York to Paris in 1927. The achievement spawned a \$300 billion aviation industry.

The British Spitfire, the fighter plane that won the Battle of Britain, was developed as a result of the Schneider trophy, a series of prizes for technological development.

More recent examples include the creation of the X Prize Foundation, which gives multimillion dollar awards to the first team to achieve specific goals. The X Prize Foundation began a revolution in private space flight with the \$10 million Ansari X Prize.

On October 4, 2004, the Mojave Aerospace Ventures team, led by famed aircraft designer Bert Rutan and financed by Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen, captured the Ansari X prize for the historic space flight of *Space Ship One* to space and back, twice within 2 weeks. *Space Ship One* is now hanging in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

The U.S. Government also offers prizes through NASA's Centennial Challenges program. According to NASA, the awards are made based on actual achievements, not just proposals. The Centennial Challenges seek

novel solutions to NASA's mission challenges from non-traditional sources of innovation in our universities, in industry, and from the public.

Most recently, Sir Richard Branson and former Vice President Al Gore announced the Virgin Earth Challenge, a \$25 million global science and technology prize. The prize was established to encourage a viable technology, which will result in the removal of at least 1 billion tons of atmospheric carbon dioxide per year for 10 years.

It is my hope and my goal that this legislation will foster the kind of solutions we need to address the concerns about climate change. What I am proposing is that we take a new look at climate change. With that new look, our solution will be based on removing excess greenhouse gases that are already in the atmosphere.

We must think anew, and we must act anew. That sentence, "we must think anew and we must act anew," is engraved on a scenic overlook along Interstate 80 between Cheyenne and Laramie, WY. It is engraved on the pedestal that holds a large-size bust of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was the one to have the vision for the Transcontinental Railroad. It is now time for us, as Americans, to think anew and act anew about the issue of climate change and controlling greenhouse gases.

Americans have always looked within ourselves for solutions. We have always had confidence in American ingenuity and American creativity to deal with the challenges of the future. Yes, we want to protect our environment, and yes, we want a strong economy. The way to have both is by thinking anew and acting anew.

It is time to use our untapped human potential and American spirit to develop the technological solutions we need. It is now time for the U.S. Senate and for Congress to find a solution to global climate change, not through limits but through imagination, innovation, and invention.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you on achieving this goal.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2615. A bill to extend the Protect America Act of 2007 for 15 days; read the first time.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2615

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. 15-DAY EXTENSION OF THE PROTECT AMERICA ACT OF 2007.

Section 6(c) of the Protect America Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-55; 121 Stat. 557; 50 U.S.C. 1803 note) is amended by striking "195 days" and inserting "210 days".

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs.

MURRAY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WEBB, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2617. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2008, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President today, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I introduce the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2008. This measure would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase, effective December 1, 2008, the rates of veterans' compensation to keep pace with the rising cost-of-living in this country. The rate adjustment is equal to that provided on an annual basis to Social Security recipients and is based on the Consumer Price Index.

Several of my colleagues on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, including Ranking Member BURR, and Senators ROCKEFELLER, MURRAY, OBAMA, SANDERS, BROWN, WEBB, TESTER, CRAIG, and ISAKSON join me in introducing this important legislation. I appreciate their continued support of our Nation's veterans.

Congress regularly enacts an annual cost-of-living adjustment for veterans' compensation in order to ensure that inflation does not erode the purchasing power of the veterans and their families who depend upon this income to meet their daily needs. This past year Congress passed, and the President signed into law, Public Law 110-111, which resulted in a COLA increase of 2.3 percent for 2008. The 2009 projected COLA increase is 2.5 percent.

The COLA affects, among other benefits, veterans' disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. Many of the more than 3 million recipients of those benefits depend upon these tax-free payments not only to provide for their own basic needs, but those of their spouses and children as well. Without an annual COLA increase, these veterans and their families would see the value of their hard-earned benefits slowly diminish, and we, as a Congress, would be neglecting our duty to ensure that those who sacrificed so much for this country receive the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

It is important that we view veterans' compensation, including the annual COLA, and indeed all benefits earned by veterans, as a continuing cost of war. It is clear that the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan will continue to result in injuries and disabilities that will yield an increase in claims for compensation. Currently, there are more than 2.8 million veterans in receipt of VA disability compensation.

Disbursement of disability compensation to our Nation's veterans con-

stitutes one of the central missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is a necessary measure of appreciation afforded to those veterans whose lives were forever altered by their service to this country.

I urge our colleagues to support passage of this COLA increase. I also ask our colleagues for their continued support for our Nation's veterans.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 67—ESTABLISHING THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. BENNETT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 67

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

There is established a Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (in this resolution referred to as the "joint committee"), consisting of 3 Senators and 3 Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The joint committee is authorized to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.

SEC. 2. SUPPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

The joint committee—

(1) is authorized to utilize appropriate equipment and the services of appropriate personnel of departments and agencies of the Federal Government, under arrangements between the joint committee and the heads of the departments and agencies, in connection with the inaugural proceedings and ceremonies; and

(2) may accept gifts and donations of goods and services to carry out its responsibilities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 68—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL BY THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. BENNETT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 68

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL BY THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES.

The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on January 20, 2009, by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.